convergence and agreement on these issues as well, a Working Group of Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers of all the States/ Union Territories under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources was constituted on 9th October, 2000. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 22nd May, 2001 wherein the draft updated National Water Policy was deliberated upon to arrive at near consensus. The draft policy would be discussed further in the next meeting of the Working Group. The draft updated Policy will need to be considered by the National Water Resources Council for its approval.

Water balance studies in relation to river Ganga

3191. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has completed the Water Balance Studies in relation to River Ganga;

(b) if so, the main conclusions of study;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the quantum and the period during which surplus water is available for other than riparian States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The eastern tributaries of Ganga besides Ganga main stem at Chunar and at Farakka are surplus. The western and southern tributaries of Ganga besides main stem of Ganga upto Narora Barrage and Ramganga basin upto Ram Ganga Dam are deficit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per the water balance studies conducted by NWDA about 92 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of Ganga water is proposed to be diverted all through the year by construction of storages for regulation of water. This transfer, besides benefiting

riparian States, also envisages irrigation benefits to the State of Gujarat.

Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana

3192. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expected assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for implementation on Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana during the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether the assistance for the current Annual Plan has been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The allocations under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) are made on year to year basis for those ongoing irrigation projects which satisfy the AIBP criteria and are proposed by the State, subject to availability of funds and the budget outlays provided by the State for these projects in their respective annual plans and keeping in view State ceiling of Central Loan Assistance prescribed by Planning Commission for the year.

(b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 25 crore has been released as first instalment of Central Loan Assistance for Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during the current year.

Shah-Nahar Major Irrigation Project

3193. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shah-Nahar Major Irrigation Project with an outlay of Rs. 143.32 crores to be shared jointly by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh has been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;